

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /055 W

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R 081158Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4247

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T NIAMEY 3122

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGSS: PINS, LY, AG, NG

SUBJECT: QADHAFI'S FOREIGN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES

1. WITHIN MINUTES OF PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S DEPARTURE FROM NIAMEY MORING JULY 7 AFTER OVERNIGHT STOP NIAMEY EN ROUTE TO DAKAR FROM OAU SUMMIT, PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE CONVOKED ME TO TALK ABOUT LIBYA.

2. KOUNTCHE SAID THAT HE AND SENGHOR HAD SPENT MUCH OF THE NIGHT TALKING ABOUT QADHAFI AND HIS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO SUBVERT AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS. COMMENT: AT AIRPORT BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE SENGHOR TOLD PRESS HE AND KOUNTCHE HAD INTER ALIA DISCUSSED INSTABILITY IN AFRICA WHICH GAVE RISE TO CONFLICT AND SUCH DEVELOPMENTS AS ATTEMPTED COUP IN SUDAN WHICH WAS ANOTHER SOURCE OF TENSION. END COMMENT.

3. KOUNTCHE WENT ON TO SAY WORDS FAILED HIM TO DESCRIBE QADHAFI OR HIS ACTIVITIES BUT TOTALLY ERRATIC AND MADMAN EASILY CAME TO MIND. HE REPEATED WHAT HE HAD TOLD ME LAST WEEK (NIAMEY 3102) ABOUT LIBYAN DEMANDS ON NIGER TO ADOPT COMMON POLICIES ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. QADHAFI DESCRIBED THESE AS PROGRESSIVE BUT KOUNTCHE CONSIDERED THEM UNREALISTIC AND IRRESPONSIBLE,

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AND CERTAINLY NOT IN NIGER'S SELF

INTEREST. LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT IN RECENT SUDAN AFFAIR WAS ONLY LATEST OF MANY SUCH LIBYAN VENTURES AND SINCE QADHAFI HAD ALREADY TRIED TO OVERTHROW HIM ONCE, HE WAS NATURALLY CONCERNED AND SITUATION CALLED FOR GREAT VIGILANCE. THERE WAS LITTLE HE COULD DO TO DEFEND HIS BORDERS AGAINST LIBYAN INFILTRATION BUT HE WAS STEPPING UP HIS SURVEILLANCE TO REDUCE RISK OF SUBVERSION WITH GON.

4. IN THIS CONNECTION, KOUNTCHE SAID HE WAS AWARE OF SECRET GROUP ORGANIZED BY QADHAFI MISSION OF WHICH WAS TO INSTALL REVOLUTIONARY ARAB GOVERNMENTS IN POWER IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. GROUP INCLUDED ONE NIGERIAN ABOUT WHOM KOUNTCHE HAD LITTLE INFORMATION. LIBYANS WERE ALSO KNOWN TO BE RECRUITING AND TRAINING NIGERIENS FROM SIZEABLE NIGERIAN COMMUNITY IN LIBYA.

5. KOUNTCHE SAID HE HAD CALLED ME IN BECAUSE WE HAD ONCE BEFORE SHARED WITH HIM AND WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DJERMAKOYE INFORMATION ABOUT LIBYA AND QADHAFI-INSPIRED ACTIVITIES ABROAD ((REF STATE 087589) AND GIVEN PAUCITY OF HIS RESOURCES, HE WOULD BE GRATEFUL ONCE AGAIN FOR ANY INFORMATION THAT QUOTE US'S VAST INTELLIGENCE NETWORK UNQUOTE COULD COME UP WITH REGARDING LIBYAN SUBVERSION IN THIS PART OF AFRICA, AND ESPECIALLY NIGER. I SAID I WOULD URGENTLY PUT HIS REQUEST TO WASHINGTON.

6. KOUNTCHE ADDED THAT IN FOCUSING IN LIBYA, HE WAS NOT LOSING SIGHT OF POTENTIAL THREAT TO HIS GOVERNMENT FROM ALGERIA. ALGERIA AND LIBYA WERE FREQUENTLY AT ODDS BUT BOUMEDIENE AND QADHAFI ALSO COOPERATE IN STRANGE WAYS AS EVIDENCED BY LEAST TACIT ALGERIAN COMPLICITY IN ABORTIVE MARCH 15 COUP AGAINST HIM. ALGERIA BORE WATCHING. IN THIS CONNECTION, KOUNTCHE SAID THAT BOTH LIBYA AND ALGERIA HAD BEEN PRESSURING HIM TO RECOGNIZE POLISARIO. HE WAS PREPARED TO SUPPORT RESOLUTIONS ON WESTERN SAHARA CALLING FOR SELF-DETERMINATION (AS NIGER DID AT RECENT OAU SUMMIT) BUT HE ABSOLUTELY REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE POLISARIO.

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7. COMMENT: NOT CLEAR WHETHER LATEST ATTEMPT AGAINST NUMAYRI IN SUDAN OR SOME OTHER DEVELOPMENT CLOSER AT HOME TRIGGERED KOUNTCHE'S CURRENT CONCERN ABOUT QADHAFI'S INTENTIONS TOWARD NIGER. HE CLEARLY FEELS ISOLATED AND SURROUNDED BY SEVERAL NEIGHBORS WITH HOSTILE INTENTIONS. RECOMMEND I BE AUTHORIZED TO SHARE WITH KOUNTCHE WHATEVER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WE MAY HAVE THAT

WOULD BE HLPFUL TO HIM. SINCE SEIZING POWER IN APRIL
1974, KOUNTCH HAS GRADUALLY COME TO UNDERSTAND THAT
WE HAVE NO ULTERIOR MOTIVES IN NIGER AND THAT WE CAN BE
TRUSTED. HE CONFIDES IN ME AS HE DID IMMEDIATELY AFTER
ABORTIVE COUP AND IN GIVING ME ADVANCE NOTICE OF HIS
SUMIT MEETING WITH BOUMEDIENE AND QUDHAIFI (REF NIAMEY 200,
19 MARCH, AND NIAMEY 1511, 7 APRIL). HE IS ALSO ONE OF
MORE HARDWORKING, RESPONSIBLE AND MODERATE CHIEFS OF STATE
AMONG CURRENT CROP OF AFRICAN MILITARY LEADERS AND I
BELIEVE IT IN OUR LONG-RANGE INTEREST IN THIS PART
OF AFRICA TO WORK WITH KOUNTCHE AND NURISH SPECIAL RELA-
TIONSHIP THAT IS EMERGING. I AM CONFIDENT HE WOULD NOT
MISUSE ANY SENSITIVE INFORMATION WE MIGHT PASS HIM OR
ABUSE OUR CONFIDENCE. HECK

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